

## COVERT OPERATIONS

## Policy

## Introduction

The use of covert operations in wildlife law enforcement is well documented. The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish recognizes the legality, the potential, and the applicability of this technique.

It is the policy of the Department of Game and Fish to conduct covert law enforcement activity, following the guidelines and procedures set forth by the Law Enforcement Division. The end of the document is already being displayed.

Division. Covert activities may use a variety of operations; i.e., Department personnel, contract personnel, other agency personnel. An operation may be requested by contacting the Assistant Chief or Chief of Law Enforcement ONLY when conventional techniques have failed.

In a covert operation, the operative will conceal his/her identity throughout the operation.

## Plainclothes

The Department also recognizes the need for non-uniform patrol to aid in the deterrent of wildlife crime. Non-uniform operations shall be requested through the District Wildlife Supervisor and approved by the Assistant Chief of Area Operations.

In such operations, civilian attire may be worn for law enforcement purposes and the officers will identify themselves upon detection of a violation. During these assignments, all other policies will apply.